

SENATE NO. 100

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES IN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a special commission to study health services for students in Massachusetts
3 public and non-public schools, including the current level of school health services, gaps in school
4 health services, the health needs of school children, and the role of schools in addressing health
5 services issues. The commission shall review relevant statistics from the department of education
6 and the department of public health, shall identify the role of school health services in the
7 community, and shall evaluate the impact of school health services on school attendance. The
8 commission shall consist of the house and senate chairs of the joint committee health care, who
9 shall serve as co-chairs of the commission, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
10 education, arts, and humanities healthcare or their designees, and three members selected by the
11 governor, including one representative from the department of education and one representative
12 from the department of public health, and one representative member from the Massachusetts
13 School Nurses Organization.

14 In carrying out its investigation, the commission shall receive testimony from the public and
15 interested organizations, including but not limited to the Massachusetts Association of School
16 Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Charter School
17 Association, Massachusetts Association of Secondary School Principals, Massachusetts Association
18 of Elementary School Principals, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Massachusetts
19 Federation of Teachers, the Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, the Massachusetts Nurses
20 Association, the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the Massachusetts School Physicians
21 Executive Committee, The Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers, the Federation
22 of Children with Special Needs, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of New England, and the
23 Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

24 The commission shall submit a report and its recommendations, if any, together with any drafts of
25 legislation necessary to carry such recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerks
26 of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the joint committee on education, arts and
27 humanities, and the joint committee on healthcare not later than November 24, 2008.